

Press Release...

...from the Illinois House of Representatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 24, 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

State Rep. Stephanie Kifowit
630-585-1308

Kifowit Roundtable Focuses on Challenges Facing Special Needs Community

AURORA, Ill. – State Rep. Stephanie Kifowit, D-Oswego, recently held a Roundtable Discussion with developmental disability advocates where the families of special needs children had the opportunity to learn more about services available to them.

“Since taking office, I have worked to connect the families of special needs children with experts who can provide valuable information on service available to them,” Kifowit said. “I think it is important for residents to be able to ask questions directly to the Director of the Department to share their experiences and receive advice.”

Kifowit’s roundtable included presentations from Greg Fenton, Director of the Developmental Disabilities Division within the Illinois Department of Human Services, and Shelia Romano, Director of the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities. The panel discussed services available to the families of children living with developmental disabilities and the impact the state budget crisis is having on available programs. Audience members had the opportunity to ask questions and explained firsthand the challenges facing their families.

Kifowit has been fighting in Springfield to restore \$20 million in funding cuts to Early Intervention programs that serve nearly 20,000 disabled children. These programs are specifically designed to help children with special needs by providing physical and speech therapy.

“The services for tens of thousands of special needs children have been put in jeopardy by Governor Rauner’s proposal to slash funding for early childhood programs,” Kifowit said. “I agree we must make commonsense cuts to government, but denying healthcare to disabled children is not the answer.”

For more information on these or other events, please visit www.ILDistrict84.com or contact Kifowit’s constituent service office at [630-585-1308](tel:630-585-1308) or Stephanie.Kifowit@att.net.

See attached photo



Caption: State Rep. Stephanie Kifowit, center standing, recently held a Roundtable Discussion with Shelia Romano, Director of the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities, center, and Greg Fenton, Director of the Developmental Disabilities Division within the Illinois Department of Human Services, right. The panel of experts discussed with attendees the services available to families and how the budget crisis is affecting the availability of services and programs.

For more information, please contact Kifowit's full-time constituent service office by calling 630-585-1308, by email at Stephanie.Kifowit@att.net, or by visiting www.ILDistrict84.com.

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